

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/642,490

Examiner

Sath V. Perungavoor

Applicant(s)

HARMAN, PHILIP VICTOR

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/10/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 4 (Renumbered 1 and 2).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 01/12/05, 12/15/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 12152005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Sath V Perungavoor
Examiner
Art Unit: 2625

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

[1] Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gary D. Fedorochko (Reg. No. 35,509) on December 15, 2005.

[2] The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, replace claim 1 with the following:

A method of producing a depth map including the steps of:

- identifying and numbering each frame of a video sequence;
- identifying at least one object within the video sequence;
- allocating an identifying tag to each object;
- dividing the video sequence into a plurality of partial sequences;
- transmitting the partial sequences to a plurality of operators, each operator determining and defining an outline for each object in the partial sequence previously allocated said identifying tag;
- receiving said partial sequences from said plurality of operators;
- collating said partial sequences to reform the video sequence;
- allocating a depth tag to each object; and

adding security measures to the sequence prior to said video sequence being divided into a plurality of partial sequences, wherein the security measures include removing audio from the video sequence and modifying the colors of the video sequence.

In claim 2, please cancel claim 2.

In claim 3, please cancel claim 3.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

[3] The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant invention is a distributed image processing method.

Prior art was found for the claim and applied in non-final office action. Applicant uniquely claimed a distinct feature in the instant invention, which are not found in the prior art, either singularly or in combination. The feature being "security measures include removing audio from the video sequence and modifying the colors of the video sequence". Prior art was found for removing audio from a video sequence [*US 5,418,853: Column 2 Lines 32-37*]. Prior art was found for modifying the color of the video sequence [*US 5,809,139: Column 5 Lines 4-21*]. However, there is inadequate motivation to combine these teachings with those of Eleftheriadis and Mackinnon.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

[4] Claims 1 and 4 are allowed.

Art Unit: 2625


Contact Information

[5] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Sath V. Perungavoor whose telephone number is (571) 272-7455. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

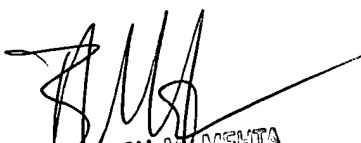
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Bhavesh M. Mehta whose telephone number is (571) 272-7453, can be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dated: December 16, 2005

By: 

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BHAVESH M. MEHTA
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